May a xxxi iour la lune
xxx

xi	b	S	philippe s iaques
	c	S	athanaise
xix	d	S	crois
viii	e	S	helene
	f		
xvi	g	S	iehan
v		S	martie
	b		
xiii	c	S	nicolas
ii	d	S	loup
	e	S	gengol
x	f		
	g		
xviii			
vii	b		

	c	
xv	d	
iiii	e	
	f	S potencienne
xii	g	
i		
	b	
ix	c	
	d	
xvii	e	S vrbain
vi	f	
	g	S eutrope
xiiii		
iii	b	
	c	
xi	d	S peronnelle

MEDIEVAL BOOK OF HOURS LEAF, c. 1470

~ Calendar Leaf for the month of May ~

IM-1226: (175x114mm) May calendar leaf from a medieval manuscript ***Book of Hours***. 17 lines of red ruled text on animal vellum; written in French. Major feast days are in red (**origin of term 'red-letter day'**). Large illuminated **"KL" initials** (abbreviation for KALENDS) are in gold on red and blue ground with white tracery. **Northern France**, c. **1470**.

The succession of saints indicates use of Paris, perhaps written at Tours. Some of the Feast days highlighted are **Saints & Apostles Philip and James** (1 May), **St. Helena** (mother of Constantine the Great – 1st Christian Emperor), **John the Apostle** (6 May), **St. Nicholas** (8 May)

To the left of the list of saints' days are repeating series of letters *A - G* called ***Dominical Letters*** since they help find Sundays (after many appropriate calculations). At the far left is an odd column of Roman numerals *i - xix* called ***Golden Numbers*** to indicate appearances of new moons, & counting ahead 14 days, full moons throughout the year (year + 1; divide by 19; remainder is Golden Number - if zero GN = 19). Finally: each month had 3 fixed points: Kalends (1st day) Ides (middle) & Nones (9th day before Ides). All days in between were counted ***backwards*** from these points.